REMARKS

Claim 18 was objected to because it was asserted to contain a number of informalities. First, it was asserted that the step of "changing the structure" needed clarification, since one does not know what the change in the structure will be, thus making the claim vague. Applicant asserts that the claim is definite in that any change to the structure satisfies the step. Thus, those skilled in the art will know that if they change the structure, in any way, they meet the requirements of the claims. The step of "inserting a label on a node" was also said to not be clearly defined since one does not know what label is going to be inserted on which node. This step is also definite as written since inserting any label on any node will satisfy the step. Thus, those skilled in the art will know that they are infringing the claim if they insert any label on any node. Lastly, the step of "adding a label from a node" was said to be indefinite since it did not indicate which node was referred to. Once again, adding any label from any node will infringe the claim. As such, the claim is definite.

As described above, each of these limitations allows those skilled in the art to determine whether they infringe the patent. Applicant notes that breadth of a claim is not equated with indefiniteness. (See MPEP 2173.04) As such, although Applicant has used broad language to include all changes to the structure, inserting any label on any node, and adding any label from any node, this does not make the claim indefinite, but instead makes it broad.

Claims 18, 20, 21 and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Yemini et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0163889, hereinafter Yemini).

Applicant notes that the Examiner's citation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the use of the phrase "anticipated by" is

confusing since anticipation is found under 35 U.S.C. § 102. As such, it is not clear from the Office Action whether the Examiner believes that Yemini shows all of the limitations of the claims or whether the Examiner considers the limitations of the claims to be obvious from Yemini. In the discussion below, the Applicant will address both anticipation and obviousness for completeness.

With the present amendment, claim 18 has been amended. As amended, claim 18 is directed to a computer readable medium having instructions for performing steps. These steps include defining a finite state machine that is a structure that includes nodes connected by links wherein the nodes and links are labeled. A label from a node is added to respective labels of links connected to the node, wherein adding a label from a node to a label for a link comprises inserting a separator between the label from the node and the label for the link <u>to form a modified label for the link</u>. A label that was added to a label for a link is then removed from a node. The structure of the finite state machine is changed and then a label is inserted on a node.

Yemini does not show or suggest the invention of claim 18. First, Yemini does not show a finite state machine. Instead, Yemini shows a network comprised of computing devices connected by physical links. Second, Yemini does not show a step of adding a label from a node to a link connected to the node to form a modified label for the link. Yemini never modifies the labels on its links. Instead, once the links are set and their labels are set, nothing is added to them. Thus, Yemini never adds a label from a node to a label from a link to form a modified label for the link.

In addition, making such a change is not obvious from Yemini. The addresses of the nodes depend on stable labels for the links that connect the nodes. As such, changing the label on a link in Yemini would make it impossible to reach a node across

that link. As such, those skilled in the art would avoid modifying the labels on the links since it would disrupt the routing of packets through the network in Yemini. Therefore, claim 18 and claims 20, 21 and 23-26 are not anticipated by nor obvious from Yemini.

The Office Action also asserted that Yemini showed the invention of claim 21 wherein adding a label from a node to a label of a link comprises appending a label from the node to the beginning of the label of the link if the link leads out of the node. Applicant respectfully disputes this assertion.

Yemini does not show or suggest appending a label from a node to the beginning of a label of a link. In Yemini, the labels of the nodes are always appended after the label for the link to form a label for a neighboring node. As such, Yemini does not show the invention of claim 21.

The Office Action also asserted that Yemini showed the invention of claim 24 in which inserting a label on a node comprises removing a portion of a label on a link connected to the node and inserting the removed portion of the label of the link as the label for the node. In particular, the Office Action cited Yemini's removal of suffixes from node labels when constructing a path between two nodes as showing the removal of a portion of a label on a link. However, the suffix that is removed is a suffix of a node label and is not a portion of a label on a link. Further, the portion that is removed from the label is not inserted as a label for a node. It is simply dropped. As such, Yemini does not show or suggest the invention of claim 24 or claims 25-26, which depend therefrom.
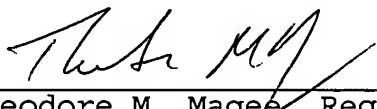
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, claims 18, 20, 21 and 23-26 are patentable over Yemini. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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